

Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
July 19, 2012

Call to Order and
Introductions:

A monthly meeting of the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee was held on July 19, 2012. The meeting convened at 3:50 p.m., Chairperson Ernest Bland presiding.

Members Present:

Ernest Bland, Carmen Camacho, Jessica Evans, Don Hague, Jon Lourie, Julie Statland, Melvin Tull, Yuri Van Mierlo

Members Not in
Attendance:

Tiffany Graham-Golden, Kay Weston

Motion:

Motion was made by Mr. Ernest Bland and seconded by Mr. Melvin Tull to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2012 meeting. Motion carried by the majority of members present.

Reports:

Lt. Robert Carter, Deputy Commander, MCPD 3rd District
Police Report:

- Lt. Carter reported that all officers have completed training and are out in the field. The police department is short three to four officer's district wide.
- No recent problems have been reported for the Galaxy Complex.
- Lt. Carter reported that crime is down in the Silver Spring CBD. Burglaries and crime is down 25% in the surrounding areas.
- Lt. Carter reported that the fire at the Ebony Barber Shop is believed to have been set by someone with a relationship to the barber shop.
- Lt. Carter stated that he would like to have the bicycle program expanded to seven days a week, with a 19-hour operation. He would also like to see an improvement in customer service with a Police Service Aid at the 8110 Georgia Ave. Fire Station One location when the police station moves from Sligo Ave.

Mr. Robert Dalrymple
Presentation Studio Plaza Project:

- Mr. Dalrymple presented updates for the Studio Plaza Project which was approved in May of 2009. The mixed use development project is set back from Georgia Ave., adjacent to Mayor's Lane between Thayer Ave., and Silver Spring Ave. where the main entrance is located. The 630,000 square ft. project will have 415 units of new housing, 60% will be one bedroom apartments and 18% will be studios. Some of the units will be designated for moderately priced housing and work force housing.
- An enclosed court yard for public use will be created as part of the development.
- The underground public parking garage will be maintained by Montgomery County's Dept. of Transportation's Parking Lot District.
- The project includes green and hardscape enhancements. Mayor's promenade will be improved and eventually extend from Georgia Ave. to Fenton Street, to allow for an appealing pedestrian connection between the two streets.

The Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee expressed some concern about the right-of-way and potential problems that the enclosed courtyard might create since it will be an isolated area away from the street.

Ms. Jessica Evans
8011 Newell St. Redevelopment:

- Ms. Evans reported that the community in south Silver Spring is concerned about the redevelopment of 8011 Newell St. The community had not been informed that a large apartment building is proposed to be built at this site.

It was suggested that the community talk to Park and Planning about their concerns.

Ms. Susan Hoffmann
Updates on Silver Spring Events:

- Ms. Hoffmann informed that the Silver Spring Swings summer concerts series ~~for~~ runs for weeks beginning each Thursday from July 12 until August 2, 2012. The concerts are sponsored by Discovery.
- The ninth annual Jazz Festival will take place at Veteran's Plaza on Saturday, September 8, 2012. Sergio Mendes is the featured performer.
- This year marks the 15th year for the annual Thanksgiving Day parade which will take place on November 17, 2012.

Mr. Ernest Bland suggested that the Silver Spring Advisory Committee have some input about how the fund for events in the downtown Silver Spring area is used. It was also suggested that there be a few events leading up to the main event of the Jazz Festival to build up excitement.

Yvette Freeman, Chief of Operations, SSUD
Urban District Report:

- Ms. Freeman reported that the Red Shirts assisted with the "Derecho" storm clean up and helped to direct traffic. Red Shirts staffed the intersection at Ellsworth and Fenton Street when the traffic signals went out.
- The Urban District has purchased 2 additional Segways, which augment the Red Shirt's efforts to monitor activity in the CBD.
- In response to multiple concerns with ADA ramps constructed by State Highway Administration (SHA), a community meeting with was held at the Civic Bldg. on June 28, 2012. SHA has now proposed adding hand rails as they reassess some of the ADA ramps that have been installed along Georgia Ave. Follow-up meetings will be held to further address these issues.

Reemberto Rodriguez, Director, SSRC
Regional Center Report:

- Mr. Rodriguez will be using the new mail ship e-mail system to distribute information about events going on in downtown Silver Spring.
- St. Michael's School will be closing but the Archdiocese will retain the property for their own use.

Mr. Ernest Bland made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned, which was seconded by Ms. Carmen Camacho.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.